

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 PM-03 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00

/031 W

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O 020805Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8255

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANILA 11355

LIMDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HUMMEL FROM SULLIVAN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 11209

1. WHEN I DISCUSSED YOUR COMING VISIT WITH SECRETARY ROMULO AND AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ MORNING AUGUST 2, BOTH OF THEM URGED THAT YOU BE PREPARED TO TALK SUBSTANTIVELY AND WITH CANDOR TO PRESIDENT MARCOS ON SUBJECT U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES. BOTH CLAIM THAT MARCOS "AND OTHER SENIOR FILIPINOS" HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT MANNER IN WHICH U.S. PERCEIVES ITS OBLIGATIONS IN EVENT PHILIPPINES ATTACKED. ESSENCE OF THESE DOUBTS CONTAINED IN MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD PAPER WHICH IS SUBJECT REFTEL.

2. PHILS PROFESS TO BELIEVE (WHETHER SINCERELY OR PURELY FOR TACTICAL REASONS) THAT U.S. WILL COME TO DEFENSE OF PHILIPPINES ONLY RPT ONLY IF U.S. FORCES STATIONED

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HERE ARE ATTACKED. THIS BELIEF STEMS FROM U.S. SENATE TESTIMONY

IN 1969, PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF WAR POWERS ACT, WHEN EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITNESSES SAID U.S. FORCES WOULD REACT "AUTOMATICALLY" AND "INSTANTANEOUSLY" ONLY IN SUCH AN EVENT. OTHERWISE, WITNESSES POINTED OUT, EXECUTIVE WOULD OBSERVE "CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES" AND HAVE TO ASK FOR DECLARATION OF WAR BEFORE U.S. TROOPS COULD BE COMMITTED.

3. THESE PHILIPPINE DOUBTS (WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE GENUINE) ARE SAID ALSO TO REFLECT THEIR CONCERN ABOUT "NEVER AGAIN" ATTITUDE OF U.S. CONGRESS IN LIGHT OF VIET-NAM EXPERIENCE. THEY ARE NATURALLY COMPOUNDED BY PHIL REALIZATION THAT THE MARCOS "NEW SOCIETY" IS NOT THE MOST POPULAR FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN MANY QUARTERS OF THE CONGRESS.

4. THE DOUBTS HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE AT THIS JUNCTURE FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

A. THE MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVE A PHIL DEMAND FOR "RENT," OR COMPENSATION" OR OTHER U.S. PAYMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO MUTUALITY IN THE U.S.-R.P. ALLIANCE.

B. PHILS SEE SOME OF THEIR SAFETY THESE DAYS IN ASSUMING A NON-ALIGNED COLORATION AND PROFESS TO BE EXAMING WHETHER THEY WISH OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY TO CONTINUE, OR TO BE TIED INTO THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT.

C. PHILS REALIZE THEY ARE FLIRTING WITH DANGER IN THEIR OIL DRILLING EXERCISE ON REED BANK AND THEIR OCCUPATION OF ATOLLS IN THE SPRATLY GROUP AND ARE LOOKING FOR MAXIMUM INSURANCE FROM U.S.

5. WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE SKULL SESSION WITH YOU AT STAG IN-HOUSE DINNER THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, PRIOR TO YOUR MEETING WITH MARCOS. HOWEVER, SUGGEST YOU MAY WISH TO GET MAXIMUM BRIEFING FROM WASHINGTON ON THESE SUBJECTS PRIOR YOUR ARRIVAL HERE.

6. LOOK FORWARD TO OUR SESSIONS. THEY SHOULD BE LIVELY  
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FUN. BEST REGARDS.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE SECURITY, VISITS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MARR, OVIP, RP, US, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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